

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
O Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, we have returned to You.

At times we do not realize how we have distanced ourselves from You. Not always attentive to Your voice, we tend to wander on our own.

Then, by Your grace, You bring us back.

When a sense of alienation shadows our soul, we find our differences difficult to bear and move away from each other.

Help us to overcome our hesitancy to accept diversity.

Bringing us to a deeper level of awareness by Your Spirit, make us one Nation.

Give us listening hearts, willing to give each other time and attention and ready to respond to Your Spirit living in one another now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MOROCCAN GIFTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Mrs. Clinton has decided that she wants New York to be her new home. Of

course, if New York decides this fall that the feeling is not mutual, she may decide to move somewhere else.

She certainly has no lack of friends in other places. Just this weekend she was in Annapolis, Maryland, raising money from the rich and famous. And we are pretty sure she still has some friends back home in Arkansas.

But it seems that some of her very best friends are from more exotic places. Last year she returned from the country of Morocco with \$52,000 in gifts from Moroccan leaders.

One of the presents she received was a \$20,000 purse. That is one heck of a purse. It has gold overlay, 64 diamonds, and 11 garnets.

I suppose, to be fair, we should point out that her husband was held in such high regard by the Nicaraguans that he came home with a \$650 humidor for his cigars to be put in.

With friends like these, who needs the Senate?

But it must be lonely at the top.

TAX CODE MUST GO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the Tax Code must go.

Our labor, our savings, our investments all taxed. Our boat, our goat, our vote all taxed. Our sweat, our thrift, our future all taxed.

Beam me up.

Tax this.

It is time to replace the socialist Income Tax Code in America with a simple flat 15 percent sales tax.

No more forms, no more lawyers, no more accountants, no more IRS and, once again, Congress will restore liberty, true liberty, in America.

I yield back with the slogan "the Tax Code must go."

U.S. SHOULD NOT BECOME
WORLD'S POLICEMAN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, as a former Air Force pilot and veteran, I have a special sensitivity and permanent appreciation for the needs and concerns of our Nation's military.

It seems obvious to me and to the men and women who serve in our military forces that I have spoken with that the Clinton-Gore administration has put our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines in danger by continually asking the military to do more and more with less and less.

Over the past 8 years, President Clinton has requested drastic cuts in military spending and yet continues to send our troops all over the world.

As Commander in Chief, President Clinton has deployed U.S. forces 34 times, while cutting troop strength by 40 percent.

During the previous 40 years throughout the Cold War and prior to the Clinton administration, our military forces were only deployed 10 times.

Madam Speaker, our military should not become the world's policeman.

I am proud that this Republican Congress realizes the importance of maintaining a strong national defense and that our military serves the United States first and the rest of the world second.

"PORKER OF THE WEEK" AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, it appears that this time the Federal Government is the one that is due a substantial refund. Auditors within the Federal Emergency Management Agency have found \$442 million in emergency funds that should be returned by States that did not need or abused these emergency dollars.

As my colleagues know, FEMA is often called upon to provide emergency aid to States in cases of natural disaster. However, the agency is starting to be viewed as a Federal insurance company which hands out free money to repair and to renovate.

In one case, the New Orleans sheriff's office has kept \$56,000 it received for flood clean-up work that was performed free by prisoners.

California is holding on to \$1.4 million it received to fight a wildfire that was recovered from a negligent party. And Georgia used \$15 million in emergency payments to not only repair flood damage but to also upgrade a facility.

FEMA funds are taxpayer funds. They are not part of a slush fund for States to tap into for whatever they want. The guilty State governments get my "Porker of the Week" Award.

106TH CONGRESS HAS AGENDA
FOR SUCCESS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, nothing we do here in Congress can be accomplished alone. Today I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have worked to make the 106th Congress' record one of accomplishment and not of partisan gridlock.

This Congress has passed some of the most solid education reform ever brought before this body, measures that will give parents and teachers more flexibility to meet students' unique needs.

But that is not all. We have also worked tirelessly to pay off our national public debt, which is saddling